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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/620,065	07/15/2003	Beth A. Besner	3756	7999
22474	7590	12/09/2004	EXAMINER	
DOUGHERTY, CLEMENTS & HOFER			AHMAD, NASSER	
1901 ROXBOROUGH ROAD				
SUITE300			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
CHARLOTTE, NC 28211			1772	

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/620,065	BESNER ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nasser Ahmad	1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/15/03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 11 and 14, the phrases "deeply embossed" and "improved thermal insulation" are found to be indefinite. It is unclear as to the range of embossing that is defined as "deeply embossed" or the degree of insulation that is defined by "improved thermal insulation".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-2, 5-17, 19, 21-23 and 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Albrecht (4875242).

Albrecht relates to a disposable sanitary seat cover (10) comprising an annulus (12) of a multi-ply embossed laminated paper sheet having a top layer (24) of tissue paper and a bottom layer (26) of a machine glazed paper, a detachable inner oval section (54) that provides an opening to the toilet (col. 4, lines 57-63), and an adhesive fastening means (57) for temporarily securing the cover to the toilet, wherein the adhesive means is attached to the bottom layer. The annulus has a polygonal perimeter, such as a rectangle (figure-2). The wipe is perforatedly attached to the inner edge of the oval

annulus. Figure-2 shows by the cross-hatch lines, that the embossing pattern is rectangularly checkered. The adhesive fastening means comprises a pressure sensitive adhesive (PSA) (58) covered with a release liner (62). The adhesive is a double-sided adhesive tape with a carrier sandwiched between the two adhesive layers. Also, as shown in figure-2, the inner section has an apex that can be readily lifted to initiate and propagate detachment. For claim 12, because the cover is embossed, the inner section is understood to be embossed too. Further, figure-2 also shows that the adhesive fastening means are two or more islets or strips (58 and 60). The absorbent layer is embossed which is understood to include printing and can comprise a two-ply layer (col. 3, lines 62-64 and figure-6). For claim 22, the length is approximately that of the toilet seat and the width is slightly wider (abstract). Figures 3-5 displays that the cover sheet is folded to fit into a bag and a finger lift to facilitate removal of a single cover from the bag.

The embossing is understood and interpreted by the examiner to include quilting.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-19, 21-23 and 25-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albrecht in view of MacLean (4887321).

Albrecht, as discussed above, fails to teach that the impervious bottom layer is polyethylene. MacLean discloses a toilet seat cover (10) comprising a paper sheet (11) coated with synthetic plastic material such as polyethylene (col. 7, lines 1-3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize MacLean's teaching of using a bottom layer of polyethylene in the invention of Albrecht with the motivation to provide a protection barrier.

The presence of odorous or fragranced seat cover is well known and conventional in the art as evidenced by Canadian patent 315,162 cited in MacLean, col. 3, line 49.

6. Claims 20 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albrecht in view of MacLean and Tanaka (6663949).

Albrecht and MacLean, as discussed above, fails to teach that the absorbent layer contains water swellable polymeric particles. Tanaka discloses an absorbent sheet comprising water swellable polymeric particle embedded therein (abstract and col. 3, lines 5 and 14). The sheet also contains deodorizer. The sheet can be used as toilet sheet. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize Tanaka's teaching of using water swellable polymeric particles in the absorbent layer of the toilet seat liner in the invention of Albrecht with the motivation to provide for dry seat for hygienic purpose.

7. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albrecht in view of Knisely (1835787).

Albrecht, as discussed above, fails to teach that the absorbent layer contains an antiseptic. Knisely discloses a sanitary closet seat cover(3) made of crepe tissue paper which is absorbent and is treated with antiseptic (page-1, lines 72-79). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to utilize Knisely's teaching of using tissue absorbent paper with antiseptic treatment in the invention of Albrecht with the motivation to provide protection from germs.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nasser Ahmad whose telephone number is 571-272-1487. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, and on alternate Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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Art Unit: 1772

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Nasser Ahmad
Nasser Ahmad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1772

N. Ahmad.
December 6, 2004.